



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 03/21/05

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/21/05

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*		
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan; Business Manager Rob Adelman; School Committee Members Paul Schlichtman (Chair), Barbara Goodman, Joanie LaMachia, Suzanne Owayda, Marty Thrope, Jeff Thielman; School Administrators Mike McCabe, John Chicarello, Marlyn Bisbicos, Robert Penta, Jonanne Gurry, Marta Batten, Alan Brown, Stephen Carne; Gordon Jamieson, Marvin Lewiston, Paul Bayer,
 MINUTES of 3/16/05 approved. Unanimous.

REPORT: Tosti provided a proof copy of the budgets in report format. He requested a review by all by Wed. He plans to recommend 2 budgets. One the Committee has been working on which depends on a successful override & is level service. Another is if the override fails which will not be level service.

BUD 19 EDUCATION Donovan presented the School Committee's budget using the handout FinCom members received at the previous mtg. She listed recent cost control accomplishments: an increase from 10% to 15% employee health insurance copay (effective FY05), Administrators now pay 20%. English teachers to handle one more class per day (effective FY06) which equalizes their class load. She listed a new challenge: 2 new group homes which require lots of staff time & which make no financial contribution. She plans to speak with Minuteman about counting students for assessment who are later sent back to the Arlington schools (10 this year). She reviewed the new costs in the budget including an electrician who will be more cost effective than a contractor. The number of ELL students has increased. A data director is needed to work with the planned new student info system and to provide info for grants. The schools receive about \$2m/yr in grants. These funds are shown in the budget pages with the programs they supplement. Some are in doubt because the Feds plan to use the 2000 census. She said the schools are working on cuts in case the override fails. She thinks the 4% limit will be tough to meet.
 VOTED: \$34,280,807. 16-0-1

BUD 16 DPW: PubWks SubCom(Olsen) recommended a \$200k decrease in the Sanitation budget to reflect a more optimistic estimate of the funds remaining at NESWC at the end of the contract. VOTED \$6,301,807.
 Unanimous.

ART 38 POSTPONE PARK CIRCLE FIRE STATION: Lewiston believes that until the fire department reports its response times from each station to each part of Arlington, the Town Meeting lacks sufficient info to approve the capital plan. He believes the department has the info. The BOS will recommend no action and have asked the department to provide the info.

ART 39 REALLOCATE PARK CIRCLE FIRE STATION FUNDS: Lewiston suggests that if info is not provided, the other stations should be renovated first. \$2.2m over 20 yrs (\$4.4m w/ interest) is involved. The BOS will not report. Tosti asked Capital Planning (Foskett) to consider. Lewiston invited to next Capital Plan mtg. During discussion, both these articles received support from members of the FinCom who expressed doubt concerning the Town's response to the MMA fire service report.

COA TRANSPORTATION EF: LibHumServ SubCom (Franclemont) recommended this budget as printed. After some discussion the article was tabled pending information about the fund balance.

YOUTH SERVICES EF: LibHumServ SubCom (Franclemont) made corrections to the longevity figures. VOTED \$198241. Unanimous. (Note: Tosti had turned the meeting over to Foskett & left before this budget was discussed.)

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$282,500

COMMITTEE: 3/23 Minuteman, PAYT; 3/28 Capital planning, ConCom, W&S EP. Future mtgs w/ Treasurer. No mtg week starting Sun 4/12.

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/22/05

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